



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

September 8, 2009

Chuck Horsburgh, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

**Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Three Rivers Stone
Quarry Expansion.
EPA project number 07-066-BLM**

Dear Mr. Horsburgh:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the FEIS for the **Three Rivers Stone Quarry Expansion** (CEQ # 20090268) in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The project is located east of the town of Clayton in Custer County, Idaho, north of the confluence of the East Fork Salmon River and the Salmon River. The FEIS identified Alternative D as the preferred alternative, which proposes to expand the quarry operations up to an additional 73 acres in order to increase mine production and to begin exploration to determine if additional marketable flagstone exists on the applicants mining claims.

EPA expressed concerns on the draft EIS based on potential impacts to water quality and air quality. We appreciate the responses to our comment letter and the additional information on air quality and water quality analyses. The additional air quality analysis resolves our concerns related to air impacts. The response to comments regarding water quality included information on the size of stormwater facilities and monitoring. The response states that proper management and maintenance of ponds would result in complying with water quality standards. However, on page 4-24 the FEIS states that due to the longer permit length proposed under Alternative D, there is a higher chance of sediment ponds breaching and fuel, petroleum products, and chemicals entering rivers. Due to this risk, we continue to have concerns about water quality impacts and recommend that the ponds be designed to hold the appropriate amount of stormwater to avoid the potential for water quality contamination. We suggest the that the Record of Decision include details of adaptive management, a robust monitoring plan, and proper contingency measures (e.g., ability to divert water to other areas if there is high flood event and risk of breaching), to further reduce the potential impacts to water quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this FEIS. Please feel free to contact Lynne McWhorter at (206) 553-0205 or by electronic email at mcwhorter.lynne@epa.gov with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit